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CLASSIFICATION

TO: Chief, FDW

DATE: 23 April 1951

FROM: []

SUBJECT: GENERAL—Operational

SPECIFIC—Possible Source of Hungarian Intelligence

Ref: MPDA-1578

18-0-1076

MICROFILMED

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1. Further information from same source as noted in reference was passed to this office by the Counselor of Embassy, as follows:

THE MAYVAB HARCOSOK BATTARSI KOZOSSEGE, (Hungarian Combatants Comrades Association) MHEK is an important organization of ex-Hungarian soldiers which maintains connections with sources of information inside Hungary. Lately it has become increasingly difficult to get information out of Hungary and it does not seem to be helpful in maintaining contact with clandestine sources. MHEK is not presently in contact with any U.S. sources but has advised that it will furnish military info on Hungary if and as directed by HORTHY. In such case, however, it would require that one of its representatives sit in on radio broadcasts in order to evaluate information. MHEK wants to work with an agency or government it can trust but desired assurances certain monuments etc. in Hungary would not be bombed. According to HORTHY, representatives of MHEK would meet with any representative of HORTHY. Headquarters of the MHEK is in Budapest. It is NOT connected in any way with the HORTHY MAU organization which HORTHY distrusts.

It is suggested if Headquarters interested in this matter further. Counsellor kind enough to furnish info on this and is not reporting info herein to Department. Headquarters would wish to send specialist on the area here to discuss this matter at greater length directly with HORTHY. In such case it is believed that complete security would be given in any meeting arranged.

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3. Quoted below is a sample illustration of information sent to HORTHY by a member of MREK on an informal basis. It does NOT represent the kind of info that could be obtained from MREK if the latter were operating as a net. This was a general letter to HORTHY thru open mails and not intended as intelligence report:

"18th March, 21st March.

There is no change in the Russian Forces within the Hungarian area. No new troops have arrived. The existing Russian garrisons are in perpetual movement, which is connected with the drilling. Otherwise no change.

The Hungarian "peoples army" (popular army) is being drilled very fast. They put great weight on tanks (panzer) and such garrisons grow out of the earth like mushrooms, often in the most hidden corners of the country. (Gyongyos, Jaszbereny, Polgardi, Tata and the former Kenyermezotabor near Esztergom are the panzer garrisons). The "huszar" barracks on the Kerepesi street in Budapest also belong to them.

But the peoples army needs another 1-2 years to get strong and fit for action. And then it is still a question how it will support debacles. ~~and~~ Besides the tanks they attach great importance to planes and parachute troops.

End of February many were arrested again, between others Lt. Gen. Imre Suhay and Col Lajos Szalay who were serving in the bodyguard until 1934.

Against Tito there is only cold war. There are no military regulations or amassments of troops directed against them either from the Soviet or its satellites. The news about this in the west is exaggerated. Tito is complaining about this danger to exort political and economic advantages from the west. The satellites are not so far to-day as to risk a war with Tito (in spite of the two panzer divisions in Hungary). The Russians also know that a war against Tito would mean world war III

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